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TO WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

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DELIVER TO DR. KISSINGER IN SEALED ENVELOPE

OCTOBER 17, 1972

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: AL HAIG

AS OF 5:15 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME TODAY, ZIEGLER HAS HAD AN INQUIRY FROM JERRY SCHECTER AND A MAJOR NEWS SERVICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE IS A REPORT THAT YOU WILL BE TRAVELING TO HANOI AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH WITH A CEASEFIRE IMMINENT.

WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST REPORT, I HAVE TOLD ZIEGLER IN THE MOST CATEGORIC TERMS THAT YOU PLAN TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FROM SAIGON.

WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER RUMOR, I HAVE TOLD HIM TO CAUTION ANY INQUISITOR THAT WHILE WE ARE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THEY WOULD BE MAKING A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO GO OUT ON A LIMB IN ANY WAY AT THIS TIME. I AM NOT SURE THAT THERE ISN'T MISCHIEF AFOOT IN HANOI DESIGNED TO ADD TO TENSIONS IN SAIGON. WE MUST, OF COURSE, BE ALERT TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF AN IMMINENT HIGH POINT.

WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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